

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,468

Examiner

Dai A. Phuong

Applicant(s)

CLAYTON, STEVE

Art Unit

2688

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michelle C. Macartney at (206) 359-8000 on 03-02-2006.

The applicant has been amended as follow:

In The Claims:

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 16 has been amended as followed:

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16. (Currently Amended) In a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising:

receiving a request to prevent unauthorized porting of a portable phone number assigned to a customer, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises

creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number, including associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider, wherein an indication of the association of the portable phone number with the routing number is stored in at least one data store for storing information identifying a mapping between a customer's portable phone number and a unique routable number, wherein the routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to a portion of

the mobile communications network associated with a mobile communications service provider, and wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store;

storing a record of the request to prevent unauthorized porting of the assigned portable phone number, and
storing customer authorization information associated with authorizing porting of the assigned portable phone number.

Examiner Remark

2. The limitation of claim 7 has been added to independent claims 1, 8, 20, 28-30 and 35 to clarify that the limitation "at least one data store" comprises a single network-wide data store.

Reasons for Allowance

3. This office action is response to amendment filed on 02/23/2006. Claim 11 has been canceled and claims 1-10 and 12-40 are currently pending.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowed:

Claims 1-10 and 12-40 are allowed.

Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1.

Claims 9-10 and 12-15 are dependent on claim 8.

Claims 17-19 are dependent on claim 16.

Claims 21-27 are dependent on claim 20.

Claims 31-34 are dependent on claim 30.

Claims 36-40 are dependent on claim 35.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a mobile communications system in a communications network configured for portability of mobile phone numbers, the system comprising: at least one data store for storing information identifying a mapping between a customer's portable phone number and a unique routable number, *wherein the routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to a portion of the mobile communications network associated with a mobile communications service provider; an administration subsystem for facilitating the storage of information in the data store; and a customer data subsystem for storing customer data*

records, wherein the customer data records include authorization information associated with a request by the customer to prevent unauthorized porting of the portable phone number, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number, and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 8, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest in a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: associating a portable phone number with a customer and with a first mobile communications service provider; *storing a record of the association between the portable phone number and the first mobile communications service provider in at least one data store that is accessible by multiple communications service providers within the mobile communications network; receiving a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number; based on the request, analyzing a customer data record to determine whether the customer has authorized*

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the requested porting by providing authorization information known by the customer information known by the customer, wherein the analyzing prevents unauthorized porting, and wherein the unauthorized porting comprises: creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; and if the customer has authorized the requested porting, storing in the at least one data store a record of a new association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number, wherein the record of the new association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes an association between the portable phone number and a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider, and wherein the routing number allows calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 16, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest in a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow

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portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: *receiving a request to prevent unauthorized porting of a portable phone number assigned to a customer, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number, including associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communication service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; wherein an indication of the association of the portable phone number with the routing number is stored in at least one data store for storing information identifying a mapping between a customer's portable phone number and a unique routable number, wherein the routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to a portion of the mobile communications network associated with a mobile communications service provider, and wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store; storing a record of the request to prevent unauthorized porting of the assigned portable phone number; and storing customer authorization information associated with authorizing porting of the assigned portable phone number.*

Regarding claim 20, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest in a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: associating a first routable number

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with a portable phone number, *wherein the portable phone number is assigned to a customer, and wherein the first routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with, a first mobile communications service provider; receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a new routable number with the portable phone number, and wherein the new routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider; and based on the request for porting, sending a message to the customer, wherein the message requests that the customer provide authorization for the request for porting so that unauthorized porting can be prevented, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.*

Regarding claim 28, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a mobile communications system in a mobile communications network configured for portability of

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mobile phone numbers, the system comprising: means for associating a portable phone number with a first mobile communications service provider; *means for storing a record of the association between the portable phone number and a mobile communications service provider in at least one data store so that information about the association is accessible by multiple communications service providers within the mobile communications network; means for receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number; and wherein associating the second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider, and wherein the routing number allows calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider ; and means for analyzing a customer database to determine whether the customer has authorized the requested porting, wherein the means for analyzing prevents unauthorized porting, and wherein the unauthorized porting comprises: creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile*

communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 29, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: receiving at a mobile communication device, an indication of a portable phone number associated with a first mobile service provider for use when calling the mobile communication device; and *receiving from a mobile communications service provider or a third party administrator, a notification of an option to prevent unauthorized switching of the first mobile service provider to a second mobile service provider, wherein the source has at least partial control of the switching, and wherein the wherein the unauthorized switching comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store, wherein creating the association between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; and based on the received notification, providing authorization information for storage at the mobile communications service provider or third party administrator, wherein the authorization information can later be provided by the customer to authorize a switch from the first mobile communications service provider to a second mobile*

communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 30, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing device to prevent unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, by performing a method comprising: associating a first routable number with a portable phone number, wherein the portable phone number is assigned to a customer, and *wherein the first routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with a first mobile communications service provider; receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a new routable number with the portable phone number, and wherein the new routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider; based on the request for porting, determining whether the customer has requested protection from unauthorized porting, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store, wherein creating the association between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the*

mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; and where the customer has requested protection from unauthorized porting, sending a message to the customer, wherein the message requests that the customer provide authorization for the request for porting; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 35, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: receiving at a mobile communication device, an indication of a portable phone number associated with a first mobile communications service provider for use when calling the mobile communication device; and *receiving from a source a message requesting customer authorization for switching from the first mobile service provider to a second mobile service provider, wherein the source is associated with the first mobile communications service provider or a third party administrator, and wherein the source has at least partial control of the switching, and wherein the switching from the first mobile service provider to the second mobile service provider includes creating an association between the second mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store accessed as a result of a call placed by dialing the portable phone number being routed through a switching center to a signal transfer point of the mobile communications network, wherein creating the association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number*

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are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the ' second mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dai A Phuong whose telephone number is 571-272-7896. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ramos Feliciano Eliseo can be reached on 571-272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dai Phuong
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Date: 03-02-2006


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PRIMARY EXAMINER